OPEN Arms

January 1997 * Vol. 9 Number 1

P.O. Box 845 Mishawaka, IN 46546

JANUARY

Ahh yes, January!! Snow, cold, sledding, skiing, basketball, the Super Bowl, New Year's resolutions, and dreaming about that upcoming summer vacation. Gay package tours are now being offered by industry giant, Certified Vacations. Certified Vacations packages trips for Delta and American Express. They join Virgin Atlantic Airways and Players Express offering tours for gays. Recent research has shown gay travelers are more affluent and take more trips than the typical traveler. For info on Certified Vacations: (800) 959-4636

Virgin Vacations.... (800) 364-6466...Just ask for their special gay and lesbian packages

Olivia Cruises (800) 631-6277... free brochure

Women-only outdoor travel companies are covering the globe through day trips and extended adventures. Women can take off by horse, raft, bicycle, dog sled, yacht and canoe. Some trips are for women over a certain age, some for first-timers in the out-of-doors and some even offer special trips for women with children. For a complete list, contact Women Outdoors, 55 Talbot Ave., Medford, Mass. 02155

Lesbians Over 50 Travel Club offers varied destinations. P.O.Box 597211, Chicago, IL 60659

The Northern Alternative, (800) 774-7520..... call for a free brochure...women owned and operated, fully outfitted and guided canoe trips in the Boundary Waters area wilderness in Minnesota

Venus Adventures, (207) 766-5655....journeys to England and Ireland

Mariah Wilderness Expeditions, P.O. Box 248, Point Richmond, CA.94807 (800) 4-MARIAH

CLUB LeBon...upscale, deluxe holiday's (800) 836-8687 (908-826-1577 phone/fax)

ENVOY TRAVEL in Chicago, full-service, lesbian-owned & operated agency 1-800-44-ENVOY

The Damron Company.....gay travel address book... for a free product catalog call (800)-462-6654

Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA available at bookstores ($19.95) offers detailed, witty commentary on many destinations.

CONTENTS :

Page 2.....Community Events
Page 3.....Lee Lynch
Page 4.....Court of Friends, Health Beat
Page 5.....In the News
Page 7.....Open Arms Supporters
Page 8.....January Calendar

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the Feb. newsletter is Jan.15th. Submissions received after Jan.15th may not be published in the February newsletter. Mail submissions to *Open Arms,* P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or give to any staff member.

Newsletter Meeting Jan. 12, 6:30 p.m. For information 271-0338

Join *Out & About Indiana* for our 6th Annual Lesbian & Gay Ski Trip to the Timberidge Ski Area in the Southwest (Kalamazoo) Michigan on January 19, 1997. For more information call 317-923-8550

WGCS, 91.1 FM presents "A WOMEN'S CIRCLE" every Sunday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE
for Womyn & Children
1650 West Foster, Ebenezer Lutheran Church,
Andersonville, Illinois
(773) 477-8362
"THE POWER OF TWO"

Talented guitarists, singers, and songwriters Chris McDermand and Becky Seip perform on January 11. Their music weaves messages of love, pain, humor, sadness and recovery with a fresh, positive style.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday
7-9 p.m.
For info, write:
LSG
P.O. Box 1612
Mishawaka, IN 46544

Lavender Rhythm
New Year's Eve Dance

Nest dance in March
Pickwick Place
219 N. 4th St., Niles
8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.
$7.00 admission at the door
Womyn only, smoking room inside, BYOB

EVENTS COORDINATORS
Third Friday Out: Sherrill and Lori 684-6913

OPEN ARMS STAFF
Suze.....219-254-8676 (beeper)
Jean.....219-259-2177
Kaye & Marcia.....219-271-0338

EDITORIAL POLICY
We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE
If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.

Scholarship Money!

The University of Michigan Lesbian and Gay Alumni Society awards two $500 grants each term for Lesbian/Gay fulltime students at U of M. Applications for the Febrauary award are available through the LGBPO: 313-763-4186.

THIRD FRIDAY OUT

Bruno's
2610 Prairie St, South Bend
Friday, Jan. 17th, 6:30 p.m.
Call by Tues, Jan. 14th for reservations.
Suggestions of future places would be appreciated, call Sherrill or Laurie at 684-6913.

Viv's Creativity Salon

Last Sunday of Every Month
Jan. 26th, 1:00 p.m.
417 Michigan St, Berrien Springs, MI
Bring poem, stories, paintings, songs, etc...SHARE self expression or your favorite creative energy of other wommin.
For more info, call Viv: 616-473-6150
or Lisa 219-299-9241

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Midwest B/L/G College Conference
Feb 21-23 at Indiana State University in Terre Hute. For info call 812-237-6916 ext 1, email MBLGCC97@indstate.edu

Olivia Cruises

February, 1997	Tahiti Cruise
March, 1997	Copper Mtn, Colorado
April, 1997	Mexican Carribean
July, 1997	Greek Isles/Turkey
October, 1997	Huatulco, Mexico

call 1-800-631-6277 for information

Notre Dame Women's Basketball

Jan.	9	West Virginia 7 p.m.
	18	Pittsburgh 1 p.m.
	21	Rutgers 7 p.m.
	25	Georgetown 1 p.m.
Feb.	6	Syracuse 7 p.m.
12	Boston College	7 p.m.
19	Villanova	7 p.m.
22	Seton Hall	7 p.m.

The older I grow the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom.

TOMBOY HOLIDAY

by Lee Lynch

As a kid I celebrated the holiday season with my family on December 25. In New York City I was very aware there was more than one way of celebrating and that we called it Christmas, but ours wasn't a religious observance. And although presents were a big deal, it wasn't a time of hysterical commercialism.

This was in the late 1940s and early 1950s. War rationing and the Depression weren't that far behind. Calling the family long-distance was exorbitant. Such recent scarcity made gifts all the more special.

Of course I received a Tiny Tears doll, a pretty plaid dress, white anklets. But I was lucky. My parents had raised a son for 14 years before I came on the scene. When I told Santa I wanted holsters and six-shooters this was not unfamiliar to my mother. There's a picture of me with those six-shooters on my hips, cowboy hat on my head, grinning gap-toothed in a cowgirl suit. The humiliation of dressing in Dale Rogers drag was worth it for the guns.

The holidays became a time to express my real self. The spirit of the holidays somehow carried with them a spirit of acceptance. My butchness, apparently born full-blown when I was, came to be represented by my favorite gifts, both given and received.

Early on my mother gave me full if not affluent reign to chose presents for the family. Let's say I learned a lot about femmes searching perfume and hankie aisles for something for her.

It was with my father that I could shop for the inner me. Every year I gave him a tie. This was partly his fault - - he told me I had excellent taste in ties. What he didn't know was that I was choosing the ties I would have worn given the chance. The opportunity to linger in the heady region of men's departments was a delight to a grade school baby butch. I didn't want to be male, but men's stuff meant comfort and ease of movement. My father respectfully lifted the diagonal stripes from their nest of tissue paper and smiled approval I never otherwise experienced.

The winter holidays are also marked by my brother's audaciously pre-feminist gifts. Like the frontier town with false-front buildings. He and my father assembled the tin tabs and slots meticulously. the cowboys came in stand and ride positions and the doors on the saloon really swung. There were fence rails for corrals and water troughs where I could tether a horse to a post along the covered fake-wood sidewalk.

These must have been gifts the family couldn't afford when my brother was a child. The next year he brought home a fleet of trucks. Their doors opened, the dump truck cranked up and down, the tires turned. Best of all, he made a multi-door garage from a huge cardboard box. I was in baby dyke heaven.

Then there was the set of toy trap drums. My favorite record was Gene Krupa's "Big Noise From Winnetka" and I wore those grooves down trying to match Krupa's frenzied sticks.

The holidays still smack of excitement for me. We had Lionel trains - - I bought a tiny HO gauge set at a yard sale a couple of years ago. I don't know what I enjoy more - - rediscovering favorite tree ornaments year after year, shopping for Lover, wrapping her gifts or watching her pleasure in opening them.

Or getting a toy. I still love Matchbox trucks. Frontier towns are gone, but I played mini-football till my fingers hurt. Guns no longer appeal to me, but picture books of New York, my holiday city, make my heart pound like a drum set.

Have all those gift-laden years tainted me with crass commercialism? I suppose so, but along the way as I've reveled in this season of fantasy, loving and giving have released parts of myself I'd like to express year round.

Happy winter holidays to you - - however you celebrate, if you celebrate - - and may your best self come out.

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Lee Lynch's latest book, edited with Akia Woods, is OFF THE RAG, WOMEN WRITE ABOUT MENOPAUSE from New Victoria Publishers

COURT OF FRIENDS

SINGLES

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

The Court of Friends
P.O.Box 1281
Niles, MI 49120
(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. **COME ON SINGLES! Someone special wants to know you're out there!**

 # 55 Hi, I am a 52 year old WF looking for a woman who's ready for a close friendship and possible committed relationship.

My interests include flower gardening, state parks, long walks, camping, dinner by candlelight, music fest, cats, and working.

Looking for someone special with high family values and some type of spiritual life.

No drugs, alcohol, or bi's. Smoking O.K.

If interested write and we'll meet for coffee and conversation.

 # 56 To someone special...looking for same. Here I am. 27, but I feel like a kid emotionally mature. Game for about anything. As long as no one is hurt. Music, movies, camping, dancing, children, flowers. There is beauty in every living thing. Prefer someone older, but age nor looks really matter. Holidays are soon coming, let's not be alone. Find the time and write. I would love to make, well, a special friend.

Someone Special

 # 57 Attractive, big hearted, outdoors lover, seeks friend and companion to enjoy and share life with. Winter is upon us, wouldn't it be nice to have someone to cuddle up with and watch a movie on those chilly evenings. If you are sincere and enjoy the things I do, please write this 31 year old. Hope to hear from you soon.

Those who talk too fast often say things they haven't even thought of yet.

HEALTH BEAT

Spirituality and Women's Health

A woman's spirituality can contribute to positive health behaviors and help her cope with health complications when they occur. Research can't yet fully explain the mind-body connection, but surveys of women suggest that spirituality, religion, and faith play a role in the way a woman experiences health and sickness. In some instances, religious beliefs may help reinforce healthful choices, such as a non-smoking, non-drug lifestyle. Prayer or meditation may be effective tools for stress or anxiety management. Faith may provide the boost of emotional strength a woman needs to respond to the challenge of illness in her life or in the lives of others around her. Her beliefs also may help her adhere to medical recommendations. In the study, spirituality is defined as belief in something greater than the self and a faith that positively affirms life. Those feelings may increase self-esteem and empower the individual, fuel creative energy and cultivate inner peace and harmony.....From the Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing

"Women's Work" Puts Health at Risk

The magnitude of women's work, both in paid employment and in the unpaid sphere of family and community, demands high performance skills and pressures them to neglect their own health needs in favor of the needs of others. In the study of women's unpaid work at home, a number of stressful aspects were identified, including frequent interruptions, continuous demands, isolation and the repetitive nature of much of the work. Women also more often become the primary caregivers for the elderly or ill family members. These responsibilities add to emotional and economic stress for women, especially for those whose paid work in compromised by family demands. As a result, women have less time available for career development, personal growth and leisure. Women should discuss the demands of everyday life with their medical advisors when health concerns arise.....Canadian Journal of Nursing Research

www.money chat

By the time you read this, you will be into the year 1997 and the big holiday spending frenzy will be behind you. Some of you could well afford what you spent and some could not. Those of you who could least afford to blow money probably blew the most. As wimin, we want to make others happy and so we try to control this or make it happen by buying. Did the spending really get you what you wanted???

Well, I figure the new year is a good time to reassess how we are taking care of ourselves. Let's talk money....security. Do you have money set aside for retirement? Do you think you will have sufficient income to live on, and, would you like to take just a little bit of a risk so as to get a higher payback on your investments? I'm looking at this situation for the first time in my life and thought I'd share my thoughts with those of you who might find yourself in a similar situation.

I've always put my money in very conservative investments, fixed and federally insured. This is about as safe as anything gets these days. Anyway, I think I could "survive" O.K. on these monies when I get around to retiring in approximately 6-8 years.

I am a "a bird in the hand is better than two in the bush" kind of person. However, even I am experiencing a "desire" to just risk a little bit for the chance to get a better return. I have run across The Women's Equity Mutual Fund which sounds good to me, because it is similar to any conservative stock fund, but is run by wimin for wimin. They have investments of over 1.5 billion dollars and have wimin at the helm who have great references and current standing. This fund has been in operation since 1992, a short time, but has gotten good returns on their investments. The plus on this fund, of course, is knowing that the money is being invested in ways that benefit wimin. (Money talks and is saying to business that it's time to bring gender equity to the business table.) The Fund invests in companies that:(1) Promote women to top executive positions and compensate them accordingly (2) Have a high percentage of women directors on the board (3) Have strong support from senior executives for workplace equality (4) Use women-owned companies as vendors and service providers (5) Present positive images of women in their advertising, promotion and marketing, etc.

If you have an interest in investing ($1000 min.), in your future in a way that is benefiting other wimin as well, then write or call the following: Pro-Conscience Women's Equity Mutual Fund, P.O. Box 856, Cincinnati, OH 45264-0856. Ask for the prospectus, which will give you lots of info and a registration form.

If you are 30 years or so and have given no thought to your future then perhaps it's time you do so. If spend, spend, is your thing and you think that you could never join in on money chat, then I suggest you forego all that pizza you've been sucking up, cut back on the drinks, throw out those damn expensive cancer sticks and put some money in the bank. The interest on savings accounts is small, but it could be a big step toward a better future. Let's just do it in 1997!!

.. Bird Lady

Happy New Year !!

IN THE NEWS

Press Release from the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.....

Twenty-two of the Victory Fund's 32 openly gay candidates have won their November races. This has been a record-breaking year for openly gay candidates. 1996 brought us a total of 27 winners. The previous highest total was 14 wins in 1994. Victory Fund Deputy Director Kathleen DeBold said, "Each of our candidates won *two* races. One against their opponents; the other against the distorted image of gay men and lesbians foisted on the public by our enemies. These election results send a clear message that the extremist viewpoints that lead to hate campaigns and gaybaiting are out of step with mainstream America. Our openly gay candidates won becouse their personal and community values are consistent with those of the average American family - - values like hard work, responsibility, and respect for others." DeBold also notes that "We don't live in a democracy, we live in a *representative* democracy. It matters tremendously who those representative are especially to the rights and equality of lesbian and gay youth, adults, seniors, couples, parents, taxpayers, and citizens everywhere."

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LOOKING FOR A 1 BEDROOM APARTMENT OR TO SHARE A HOUSE IN THE SOUTH BEND AREA. PLEASE CALL .....CHRIS 616-684-7362

Advice to persons about to give advice: Don't!!

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!!!

Beginning January 1997 Open Arms will be changing the way advertisements are billed. In order to facilitate record keeping, we will now renew on a calendar year from January thru December. The cost will remain at $10.00 a year for a business card insert, or $1.00 a month for a limited time insert.

ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS!!!

In order to facilitate record keeping, Open Arms asks that when you move, please send us a change of address ASAP. If you have fallen on hard times and feel that you cannot afford the newsletter, please let us know and we will continue to mail you the newsletter so that you can be aware of what is happening in our community.

In addition to our standard rate of $10.00 a year, we would also like to offer a special subscription rate of $25.00 for 3 years. This new rate will help us to save postage and handling charges.

Subscription form: Open Arms-$10.00/year or $25.00/3 Years

Name_____
Address_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____
Telephone Number_____

Make checks payable to *Open Arms* and mail to:
P.O.Box 845, Mishawaka, Ind. 46546

PET REFUGE IS ASKING EVERYONE TO COLLECT CANS FOR THE ORGANIZATION. TAKE ALUMINUM CANS (Also dog & cat food) TO THEIR BUILDING AT 2300 W. SIXTH ST., (4 blocks east of Ironwood) MISHAWAKA, IND. and place inside the fence. Phone 256-0886 for more info.....

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January

1997

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 WGCS 91.1 FM presents "A Women's Circle" every Sunday 6-7	6	7 support group 7-9 p.m.	8	9 N.D. vs West Virginia 7:00pm	10	11
12 Open Arms meeting	13	14 RSVP due 3rd Friday Out support group 7-9 p.m.	15 Martin Luther King's Birthday	16	17 3rd Friday out 6:30pm BRUNO'S	18 N.D. vs Pittsburg 1:00pm
19 Happy Birthday GLORIA B.	20 Martin Luther King Day	21 N.D. vs Rutgers 7:00pm support group 7-9pm	22 Best Wishes LAURA A.	23	24	25 N.D. vs Georgetown 1:00pm
26 Super Bowl xxxi Viv's Creativity Salon 1:00 p.m. PFlag 2-4 p.m.	27	28 support group 7-9 p.m.	29	30	31	